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SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Kristensen wishes to announce that he has guests under the north balcony: Carol Reed, LaRae Worden, Jeanne Saathoff, and Sharon Mason. Would you please rise and be recognized by the Legislature. Senator Schrock, you are recognized for the committee amendments. (AM0161 is found on page 499 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHROCK: The committee amendments were brought to us by the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and it just gives them the same capabilities as it does our public power districts.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: There are no lights. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Schrock, a question, please.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Schrock, will you yield?

SENATOR VRTISKA: You talk about techni...technical equipment. How far does that go back? I mean I'm trying to understand what that kind of equipment.... You're not talking about computers and that type of technology equipment, are you?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Let's just say they needed to replace a turbine in a hydropower facility and they're finding that they have to let these out for bids and they're finding that nobody will bid on them because the specifications for it may be so complicated that they don't know what they're doing. And so this...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well...

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...would give them a chance to negotiate on that rather than putting it up for bid.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I understood that, but when you brought the amendment in I got...that's what piqued my curiosity. What are you talking about and what were they speaking about in the amendment?

SENATOR SCHROCK: It just gives the municipality energy agencies of Nebraska the same authority.